

ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of

Public Health Conditions

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1962

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by

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

H. C. PERKINS, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector



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W. H. PLATT.

TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-eighth Annual Report on the Public Health conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1962 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/63 of the 30th January, 1963.

Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population.

The estimated home population at mid-summer, 1962, was 54,480 (an increase of 2,800 from the previous year). This gives a population density of 5.86 per acre.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books at 1.4.62 was 15,565, an increase of 589 from the previous year.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £563,059 and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £2,450 at 1.4.62. The previous year, these were £538,608 and £2,244 respectively.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the population are:—Brickmaking, mining, agricultural; heavy and light industries are now well established. The district is also largely residential.

Vital Statistics.

The statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

LIVE BIRTHS:

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	648	591	1,239
Illegitimate	...	15	11	26
		—	—	—
		663	602	1,265
		—	—	—

Of these 1,265 births, 629 were registered locally, the remaining 636 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 49.7 per cent. of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is greater than the percentage for last year (viz.: 47.5).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 23.22 and the corrected live birth rate 19.97—the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 18.0 for 1962, the highest since 1947.

For 1961 the crude and corrected live birth rates for the district were 24.22 and 21.07 respectively.

Illegitimate Live Birth Rate—per 1,000 live births was 20.55.

Still Birth Rate—26 still births (males 9 and females 17) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 20.13. The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.1. The still birth rate for 1961 was 14.95.

Death Rate—355 deaths (males 208, females 147).

The crude death rate was 6.51 and the corrected death rate 11.84 per 1,000 of the population—the latter can be compared with the crude death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 11.9—0.1 lower than for 1961.

The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F.'s)—used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have been amended and are now 0.86 and 1.82 respectively as compared with 0.87 and 1.79. This means a lowering of the crude birth rate and an increase of the crude death rate, and takes into account the fact that as the district rapidly develops the number of residents in the younger age groups annually increases. In other words the A.C.F.'s make an approximate allowance for the way the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, or with the corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

In addition, the death rate A.C.F. is now adjusted specifically to take account of any “residential institutions” in the area.

One hundred and forty-two deaths were transferred into the district and 20 were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate—21 infants under one year of age died, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 16.60 per 1,000 live births. 14 infants under 4 weeks of age died, giving a neonatal death rate of 11.06 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 21.4 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

No illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

One death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer—69 deaths resulted from malignant neoplasms and included in these were 18 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) continue to be forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Laboratory Facilities—The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood etc.

During the year reports on two swabs from throats etc., and 115 specimens of fæces were received, 74 of which were negative. Three specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, and all were negative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority:—

Ambulance Service.	Infant Welfare Centres.
Home Help Service.	Ante-Natal Clinics.
Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).	

Laboratory Services—The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 4377), Director—Dr. A. E. Wright (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis—County Analyst—A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 51181).

Hospitals—Those chiefly used are: The General, the Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall; the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation—Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox—Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases—are, now-a-days, a moral and social problem rather than a medical one, as they can now be successfully cured by skilled treatment.

Venereal Clinics are held regularly at the Manor Hospital, Walsall for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis—Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

WATER

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. H. Taylor, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, has kindly let me have the following information for the year, 1962:—

- 1. The Water Supply to the Urban District of Aldridge has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- 2. The supply is derived mainly from one pumping station (Bourne Vale) within the Authority's boundaries and six pumping stations outside. Also supplied to parts of the district is a proportion of water of surface origin.

Samples of the water from the pumping stations are regularly and frequently subjected to both bacteriological and chemical examination and, where possible, samples of water prior to chlorination are regularly examined bacteriologically.

During, 1962, 50 samples taken from Bourne Vale pumping station were all satisfactory. Also examined were 168 samples from Barr Beacon Reservoirs, 167 of which were free from all types of coliform bacteria as were 12 samples taken from the Waterman's House in Aldridge.

The average chemical results for 1962 were:—

pH	...	...	...	...	7.2			
Alkalinity (CaCO)	...	...	...	108		parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	...	...	...	25.1		,	,	,
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	.039		,	,	,
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	.066		,	,	,
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	5.8		,	,	,
Oxygen Absorbed (3hr. at 20°C.)	...	...	...	.75		,	,	,
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	103		,	,	,
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	126		,	,	,

Total Hardness	229	parts per million
Total Solids	342	,, ,, ,,
Iron (Fe)	.03	,, ,, ,,
Manganese (Mn)	Trace	,, ,, ,,
Calcium (Ca)	71.7	,, ,, ,,
Magnesium (Mg)	11.5	,, ,, ,,
Sulphate (SO)	102.0	,, ,, ,,
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	,, ,, ,,
Copper (Cu)	.01	,, ,, ,,
Lead (Pb)	Nil	,, ,, ,,
Free Cl	.01	,, ,, ,,

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all the samples taken from the Waterman's House were free from any detectable quantity of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised as a precautionary measure at most pumping stations. In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs etc., emergency chlorination, is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and proved satisfactory.
5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1962 was 16,494 which includes 17 supplied by an outside tap (782 more than at 31st December, 1961).

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the district has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The household refuse collection and disposal service is now under the control of the Public Health Department (Chief Public Health Inspector). Satisfactory disposal of refuse is and can be provided at the Pelsall tip for some years to come. A regular weekly service has been maintained.

Trade refuse collection and disposal service. This still remains a problem and complaints have been received from various sources. However, this much needed service will be operating as soon as possible.

HOUSING

The number of houses erected during the year 1962:—

Erected by Local Authority		Otherwise	
Erected during 1962	In course of erection at end of 1962	Erected during 1962	In course of erection at end of 1962
144	283	741	343
TOTALS: Erected during 1962		...	...
		In course of erection at end of 1962	885
			626

No Old Age Pensioner's Bungalow was completed during 1962. Nine families were re-housed on medical grounds, including four cases of tuberculosis.

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Slum Clearance.

The following houses were demolished during the year:—

Aldridge Ward	...	...	11
Pelsall Ward	...	...	11
Rushall Ward	...	...	21
			—
			43
			—

SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS

The County Sampling Officer has taken samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admission of infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

Schools.

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

Small Pox. (Suspected Cases).

In February, 1962 a suspected case was notified from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr. After consultation with the medical staff in the hospital and obtaining the opinion of a member of the panel of consultants, a diagnosis of Chicken Pox was confirmed.

A second suspected case, residing in Great Barr, was also examined and kept under observation.

Also in February, 1962 one contact case in Pelsall was kept under surveillance etc.

Diphtheria.

Again, no case of diphtheria was notified during 1962.

The last case of diphtheria occurred in the year 1956 and the last death in 1943.

Immunisation.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

I am grateful to Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer for the following information in respect of immunisations and vaccinations carried out in the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	1962	1961	1960	Born in 1959	1958	1953-57	1948-52	Total
(a) No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during 1962	228	509	52	4	3	23	9	828
(b) No. of children who received a re-inforcing injection in 1962 ...	13	59	50	15	13	184	16	350

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

	1962	1961	1960	Born in 1959	1958	1953-57	1948-52	Total
(a) No. of children who received a primary course of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) during 1962	248	467	32	8	2	1	3	761

Small Pox Vaccination.

Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14	15 & over.	Total
Vaccination	716	250	307	1,019	1,449	3,741
Re-vaccination	—	—	2	27	134	163

N.B.—The large increase in the number vaccinated against Small Pox (1962—3,741) and (1961—422) was accounted for by the sporadic cases of Small Pox which occurred during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

No figures are available for the Aldridge Urban District.

The following figures relate to the Area.

No. of persons in area who completed a primary		
course of injections at 31.12.62 was		53,298
Total number of boosters (3rd injection)		36,483
Total number of boosters (4th injection)		3,349
Estimated population of area (mid-1962)		137,970
Estimated population of Aldridge U.D. (mid-1962)		54,480

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1962

Disease	Total cases notified after correction
Diphtheria	—
Scarlet Fever	15
Enteric Fever—including Paratyphoid	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Pneumonia	7
Meningococcal Infection	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Dysentery	13
Measles (excluding Rubella)	392
Whooping Cough	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—
(Non-Paralytic)	—
Erysipelas	4
Food Poisoning	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—
(Post-Infectious)	—

**ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES
(AFTER CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND
WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:—**

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Mening: Infection
			Para.	Non. Para.				
0—1 year ...	—	1	—	—	21	—	1	—
1—2 years ...	—	1	—	—	31	—	3	—
2—3 years ...	—	—	—	—	41	—	2	—
3—4 years ...	1	—	—	—	56	—	1	—
4—5 years ...	1	—	—	—	38	—	1	—
5—9 years ...	12	1	—	—	196	—	2	—
10—14 years ...	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
15—24 years ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
25+ ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	15	3	—	—	392	—	13	—
WARDS								
Aldridge ...	4	1	—	—	73	—	—	—
Great Barr ...	—	—	—	—	15	—	1	—
Pelsall ...	1	—	—	—	19	—	10	—
Pheasey ...	3	—	—	—	127	—	1	—
Rushall ...	2	—	—	—	31	—	—	—
Streetly ...	5	2	—	—	127	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	15	3	—	—	392	—	13	—

AGE GROUPS	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
0—4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44 years ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 years ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	4	1	—	—	—	—
WARDS							
Aldridge ...	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
Great Barr ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pelsall ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pheasey ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rushall ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Streetly ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	4	1	—	—	—	—

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following Table shows the attack rate of certain infectious diseases notified during 1962 per 1,000 of the population:—

	Cases	Rate
Scarlet Fever	15	0.27
Whooping Cough	3	0.05
Pneumonia	7	0.13
Measles	392	7.19

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-three cases of tuberculosis (see Table) were entered on the Register, 21 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

Six cases resided in Aldridge, 3 in Great Barr, 1 in Pelsall, 8 in Pheasey, 1 in Rushall and 4 in Streetly.

Three of these 23 cases were notified from Institutions and 13 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification as follows:—

Inward Transfers	...	...	...	...	13
First notification after death			...	...	Nil
Restored to Register		...	...	...	Nil
					—
					13
					—

The 13 cases transferred into the District came to reside as follows:—

Aldridge 2, Great Barr 1, Pelsall 1, Pheasey 5, Rushall Nil, Streetly 4.

REVIEW OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

During the year the quinquennial review of the register involving investigations in respect of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, whose names had been on the register for over 5 years and over 3 years respectively, was carried out.

I am grateful to Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer of Health for allowing his Health Visitors to visit many cases and to complete the questionnaires, also to Dr. J. Macartney, Tuberculosis Officer, Chest Clinic, Walsall, Dr. Buchan, St. Margaret’s Hospital, Great Barr and to several General Practitioners for useful information.

The review resulted in the erasure of 108 cases from the register, as follows:—

Pulmonary	102	...	Males	58,	Females	44
Non-Pulmonary	6	...	Males	2,	Females	4

Of these 108 cases 77 were regarded as “recovered”.

30 cases had left the district and 1 case had died.

Great care was taken to ascertain whether the “recovered” cases had, in fact, shown signs of active disease, and although the erasure of 108 cases appears formidable, this would be in accordance with expectations, as the result of modern methods of treatment, first widely introduced in 1948.

It is gratifying to know that the tuberculosis death rate has declined considerable over the last 30-40 years, particularly since 1948.

The following statistics are of interest:—

Average **Annual** Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.

			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Decade	1925-1934 (inclusive)	...	0.50	0.17
	„ 1935-1944	„ ...	0.43	0.08
	„ 1945-1954	„ ...	0.27	0.08
Period	1955-1962	„ ...	0.07	0.01

This decline can be mainly attributed to the following factors:—

1. A better understanding of the disease.
2. The improved living conditions.
3. The prosperity of the population at large.
4. The widespread use of modern anti-tubercular drugs.

There were 250 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at 31.12.62 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr) as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
119	104	14	13

(4.6 per 1,000 population).

There were 7 cases of tuberculosis in St. Margaret's Hospital on the Register at 31/12/62 as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
7	—	—	—

(approximately 5.0 per 1,000 in St. Margaret's Hospital).

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year, for the whole of the District, including those in St. Margaret's Hospital, was therefore 257 made up as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
126	104	14	13

The notification of tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No death from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis was registered.

The following table shows the cases of tuberculosis entered on the register, classified according to age and sex, during 1962, including those from St. Margaret's Hospital:—

			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	year	...	—	—	...	—
1—2	years	...	—	—	...	—
2—5	„	...	—	—	...	—
5—10	„	...	—	—	...	—
10—15	„	...	—	—	...	—
15—20	„	...	3	1	...	1
20—25	„	...	1	3	...	—
25—35	„	...	2	4	...	—
35—45	„	...	1	2	...	—
45—55	„	...	2	1	...	—
55—65	„	...	1	—	...	—
65—75	„	...	—	—	...	—
75 and over	„	...	—	—	...	1
			—	—	—	—
TOTALS			10	11	...	2
			—	—	—	—

Of the 257 cases on the register several were resident in caravans and I strongly recommend the Housing Committee to favourably consider any applications for re-housing which may be made by caravan dwellers, particularly where there are young children in the families.

The number of tuberculosis cases (23) entered on the register is 0.42 per 1,000 of the population and is considerably lower than in recent years. In 1961 the number was 26.

This figure (0.42) for 1962 compares with:—

1.29 for 1952	0.76 for 1957
0.92 for 1953	0.92 for 1958
1.20 for 1954	1.41 for 1959
1.11 for 1955	1.20 for 1960
1.11 for 1956	0.50 for 1961

The average for this decade was 1.04.

The total number (257) represents 4.71 per 1,000 of the population. As the sufferers from this disease appear to be more health conscious, and/or are better able financially to move from the denser populated neighbouring areas to the Aldridge Urban District, it is probable the number on the register may tend to increase disproportionately to the increase in population.

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

DYSENTERY

13 cases of dysentery were notified and investigated.

FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning was notified.

FOOD HYGIENE

The visiting of food premises was regularly carried out during 1962, and reports have been submitted monthly to the Health Committee. Considerable progress has been made towards raising the standard of the storage, handling and distribution of foods, to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1958

THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS 1958

Both the slaughterhouses in the District have been brought up to the full standards as laid down by the above Regulations.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, continues to operate satisfactorily. The same part-time attendant is employed and the arrangements appear to be satisfactory. There has been full co-operation with the Police.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The modern sewage disposal works to replace the inadequate and obsolete works situated at Chester Road, Streetly are now in use.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The circumstances of two aged persons were investigated. Both persons were admitted to hospital without using the powers available under this Act.

CARAVANS

Since the introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, which became operative in August, 1960, more effective powers are now available for dealing with caravan sites.

Under the provisions of this Act, model standards have been introduced for the control of such sites, especially in regard to density and space between caravans, roads and footpaths, hard standings,

fire fighting appliances, water supply, drainage, sanitation and washing facilities, refuse disposal, storage space, car parking and recreation space.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY — MOBILE UNITS

No visits were made by the Birmingham Mass Radiography Units to the Aldridge Urban District in 1962.

GENERAL REMARKS

The health of the population during 1962 was very satisfactory, the corrected vital statistics comparing more than favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

Worthy of special mention is the steady decline of the tubercular death rate for the district. This downward trend is in harmony with National statistics which record that the decline in the mortality rate from 1900-1945 was about 3 per cent. per annum (apart from the War years), and that after 1948 the decline accelerated, on an average 15 per cent. per annum. It is anticipated that this decline will continue, and if so, tuberculosis as a cause of death will have virtually disappeared by 1975, providing complacency does not develop.

One death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion, the first for over 14 years.

The Infantile Death Rate—16.60, was well below that for England and Wales—viz. 21.40.

Co-operation with the Housing Manager in obtaining better housing conditions for certain families on purely medical grounds has continued satisfactorily.

Urgent cases receive first priority in this respect.

Atmospheric pollution, food hygiene and the eradication of unfit houses, continue to be energetically dealt with by the Staff.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 (Smoke Control Areas) has been, and is being vigorously implemented. Problems arise from time to time, chiefly with elderly persons and are, almost without exception, readily overcome. The standard of hygiene in food shops, and premises, has been raised considerably, and I may say, noticeably in recent years.

All members of the staff have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector continues in his usual competent and energetic manner.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TOTAL DEATHS

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1962).

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	208	147
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	18	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	19	14
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	19	23
18. Coronary Diseases, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	56	17
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
20. Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	14	23
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	16	4
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
31. Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	21	16
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
34. All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

							Male	Female
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	9
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE.

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

LIVE BIRTHS.

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	663	602
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	648	591
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	11

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1962

To the Chairman and Members of Aldridge Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting this my fifth Annual Report on the work of the department during the year.

(a) Meat and Food Inspection.

During the year 100 per cent. meat inspection has been maintained at the two private slaughterhouses. I am pleased to report that condemnations were minor in character and mainly consisted of distomatosis, cirrhosis, and parasitic conditions of lungs and that no case of tuberculosis occurred in cattle.

There has been an increase in the condemnation of canned foods due to the establishment of a wholesale food distributing company in the district.

(b) Slum Clearance.

Satisfactory progress has been maintained with the Council's Slum Clearance programme. A total number of 41 dwelling houses were demolished during the year by formal Housing Act procedure and acquisition by the Council for redevelopment purposes. 14 Clearance Orders comprising 96 dwelling houses, were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. 6 Individual Demolition Orders were made.

During the early part of the year the Ministry confirmed the “Aldridge (Winterley Lane, New Street, Lichfield Road, Rushall)” Compulsory Purchase Order, 1962 comprising Clearance Areas numbers 29, 30 and 31 (63 unfit and 10 fit properties).

The majority of the occupants were re-housed by the Local Authority on the new Barns Lane, Rushall, Council estate, situated approximately three quarters of a mile to the north eastern side of this area.

Towards the latter part of the year, a demolition contractor was engaged to demolish the properties. Steady progress was maintained, but in the main was hampered by the fact that valuation settlements for the houses were delayed and, consequently, it was only possible to deal with the demolition work in a “piece meal” fashion.

(c) **Food Hygiene.**

It is gratifying to be able to report that it has been possible to carry out regular and systematic inspections of all food shops and factory canteens within the district.

I should like to record my appreciation to all shop and factory management for their assistance and co-operation in trying to establish a high standard and code of practice in all aspects of food handling, preparation, storage, and sale of food to the general public.

HOUSING

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	138
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	1,310
(2)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	105
(3)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	33
(4)		Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
		Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notice:—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
---	----

3.—Action Under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 17, 23 and 42 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	29
(4) Houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43 (2) of the Housing Act, 1957	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified by Medical Officer of Health demolished by informal action	1
(6) Local Authority owned houses (not unfit) demolished for re-development purposes	8
(7) Houses demolished informally by site developers	1

SITUATION OF PROPERTIES DEALT WITH AS SHOWN IN THE ABOVE TABLES

Individual Demolition Orders.

Individual Demolition Orders were made by the Council on the following houses:—

“The Laburnums”, 20 Knights Hill, Barr Common.
6 Radley Road, Rushall.

161, 163, 165, 167 Walsall Road, Heath End, Pelsall.

The following dwelling houses were inspected under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and represented to Health Committee as unfit houses.

Due to special circumstances the Council have deferred the making of demolition orders:—

Wren's Nest Farm, Skip Lane, Barr Beacon.
Bungalow Nod. 59 Erdington Road, Aldridge.

Closing Orders.

Closing Order, substituted for Demolition Orders were made by the Council on the following houses:—

23, 25, 27 and 29 High Street, Aldridge.
2, 4 and 6 Rookery Lane, Aldridge.

Clearance Orders.

Clearance Orders were made by the Council on the following houses:—

Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 33.

47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71 and 73
Walsall Road, Heath End.
64 Short Street, Heath End.
2 and 4 Princess Street, Heath End.

Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 34.

106, 108, 110 and 112 Walsall Road, Heath End.

Aldridge (Heath End), Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 35.

120, 122, 124 and 126 Walsall Road, Heath End.

Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 36.

128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150,
152, 154, 156, 158 and 160 Walsall Road, Heath End.

Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 37.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Birchin Cottages.

Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 38.

9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 Walter
Street, Heath End.

Aldridge (Dumblederry Lane, Aldridge) Clearance Area No. 39.

320 and 322 Dumblederry Lane, Aldridge.

Aldridge (Birmingham Road, Aldridge) Clearance Area No. 40.

10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 Birmingham Road, Aldridge.

Aldridge (Wood Lane, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 41.

160A, 160B, 160C and 160D Wood Lane, Pelsall.

Aldridge (Wood Lane, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 42.

126, 128, 130, 132, 134 and 136 Wood Lane, Pelsall.

Aldridge (Daw End Lane, Rushall) Clearance Area No. 43.

235 and 237 Daw End Lane, Rushall.

Aldridge (Fordbrook, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 44.

3, 4 and 5 Fordbrook, Pelsall.

Aldridge (Radley Road, Rushall) Clearance Area No. 45.

2, 3 and 4 Radley Road, Rushall.

Aldridge (Norton Road, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 46.

19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 Norton Road, Pelsall.

Houses Demolished.

Individual Demolition Orders: —

White Rose Cottage, Corner of Allens Lane and Foundry Lane, Pelsall.

Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders.

21, 22, 23 and 24 High Street, Pelsall.

21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 53, 57, 67, 69, 71, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 New Street, Rushall.

76, 78 and 80 Hall Lane, Pelsall.

64, 66 and 68 Lichfield Road, Pelsall.

Local Authority owned houses (not unfit) demolished for re-development Purposes.

2 Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge.

14, 16, 18 and 20 Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge.

10 Bakers Lane, Aldridge and Stable at rear of 12 Bakers Lane.

2 and 6 Whetstone Lane, Aldridge.

Local Authority owned houses (unfit) demolished for re-development Purposes.

4 Whetstone Lane, Aldridge.

Houses Demolished informally by Site Developers for re-development Purposes.

Druids Heath Farm,

34 Lazy Hill Road, Aldridge.

RENT ACT 1957

Number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair	1
Number of Certificates Granted	Nil
Number of Applications for Cancellations	Nil
Number of Undertakings given by Landlords and accepted by the Council	1

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960

Food Premises

Inspection and Supervision of:—

No. of Food Shops and Food Preparing Rooms Inspected ...	168
No. of Notices Served	16
No. of Contraventions Found	135
No. of Notices Completed	16
No. of Improvements	83
No. of Mobile Shops Inspected	5
No. of Contraventions Found	8

Inspections made of:—

Ice Cream Shops	13
Inspections made re Unsound Food	39

Nature and Type of Improvements to Food Premises During the Year.

Articles and Equipment Provided	4
Cleanliness—Ceilings	6
Floors	5
Walls	4
Clothing Accommodation	3
Drainage	1
First-Aid Equipment	6
Hot Water	9
Improvements	2
Intervening Ventilated Space	1
New Drainage	1
New Equipment	1
Personal Cleanliness Display Notices	3
Protection of Food	6
Redecoration and/or repair—Ceilings	4
Floors	3
Walls	4

Refuse bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation			...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Soap, Nailbrushes etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash hand basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
								—
								83
								—

Details of samples Taken in Aldridge Urban District Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, During 1962.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods taken in the district have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

Number of Samples taken	...	...	167
Number of Samples genuine	...	...	158
Number of Samples adulterated	...		9

General Food and Drugs

Aspirin Tablets B.P.	Cheese Spread (3 samples)
Apricots in Heavy Syrup	Corned Beef and Mushrooms
Butter (7 samples)	Capers in Vinegar
Baked Beans with Baconburghers	Cold Tablets
in Tomato	Cream of Mushroom Soup
Bolognese sauce	Coffee and Chicory Essence
Bitter Lemon Drink	Cough Syrup
Boric Acid B.P.	Demerara Sugar (2 samples)
Butter Eccles Cake	Dried Sliced Onions
Brown Sugar	Dextrose Tablets
Blackcurrants	Dairy Cream
Baking Powder (2 samples)	English Mustard
Beef Curry (2 samples)	Fruit Salt
Cooking Fat	Frosting Mix
Chicken Supreme	Fried Hamburghers with Tomato
Corned Beef (2 samples)	Fish Cakes
Crab Spread with Butter	Full Cream Milk Chocolate
Chocolate Polka Dots	Fish Dressing
Creamed Barley Mix Pudding	Golden Vinegar with Caramel
Cream Cheese Spread	Gooseberries in Syrup
Casserole Meat (2 samples)	Glace Cherries
Creamed Rice Pudding	Granny Cookies
Condensed Full Cream Milk	Ground Almonds (2 samples)
(Unsweetened)	Glucose with Vitamin
Cochineal Food Colour	(2 samples).

Glycerine Lemon and Honey	Pineapple Flavour Fruit Bar
Ground Cloves	Peach Slices in Heavy Syrup
Glycerine of Borax B.P.	Plum Pudding
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules B.P.	Patna Rice
Instant Chocolate	Ritz Crackers
Instant Flan Fruit, Blackberry	Rayeon
Ice Cream Mix	Rose Hip Syrup
Instant Coffee (2 samples)	Red Cherries in Syrup
Ice Cream (3 samples)	Sponge Pudding
Ice Cream contains Non Milk Fat	Sausage, Pork (5 samples)
Iron and Yeast Tablets	Sausage, Beef
Jelly Marmalade	Steakburgers
Lard	Sild in Tomato Sauce
Lemon Drink	Strained Beef Dinner
Lemon Curd	Snowballs
Lemon Barley Water with added	Steak and Kidney Pudding
Glucose	Spaghetti
Laxative Chocolate	Stewed Steak with Gravy
Lamb Chops with Vegetable	(2 samples)
and Gravy	S.R. Flour
Lactic Cheese	Sparkling Lemon Drink
Lemon Cheese Biscuits	Salmon and Shrimp Fish Paste
Margarine	Strawberry Jam
Malt Vinegar	Sandwich Biscuits
Mixed Fruit Jam	Sterilised Cream
Mixed Pickling Spice	Shredded Beef Suet
Meat Paste, Liver and Bacon	Tuna in Oil
Mixed Fruit	Tomato Ketchup
Mussels in Vinegar	Tea (4 samples)
Marshmallows	Thyme and Parsley Forcemeat
Milk of Magnesia Tablets	Tangerine Table Jelly
Milk Chocolate Covered Mint	Vegetable Fat
Mustard	Vegetable Juices
Orange Drink	Wholemeal Cereal
Plain Flour (2 samples)	Whole Rice
Pineapple in Heavy Syrup	Whole Carrots
Pork Picnic Meat	White Pepper
Potted Beef with Butter	Yeast Extract
Peaches in Syrup	Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment B.P.
Peeled Plum Tomatoes	Whisky (6 samples)
Peanut Butter	Rum (4 samples)
Pork Crisps	Gin (4 samples)

Samples Below Standard.

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

67 B/E CASSEROLE MEAT—INFORMAL.

5.9% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Followed by formal sample 84 B/E.

84 B/E CASSEROLE MEAT—FORMAL.

Should be described as "Casserole Meat with Gravy". Repeat sample to 67 B/E above. To await decision of Food Standards Committee regarding Meat content.

13 B/F STEWED STEAK WITH GRAVY—INFORMAL.

15.0% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Followed by formal sample 57 B/F.

57 B/F STEWED STEAK WITH GRAVY—FORMAL.

9.0% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Repeat sample to 13 B/F above. To await decision of Food Standards Committee regarding meat content.

17 B/F LEMON DRINK—INFORMAL.

26.0% deficient of fruit juice. Followed by formal sample 58 B/F.
Contains 100 parts per million of Benzoic Acid.

58 B/F LEMON DRINK—FORMAL.

30.0% deficient of Lemon juice. Repeat sample to 17 B/F above.
Contains 96 parts per million of Benzoic Acid. Labels amended.

35 B/I IRON AND YEAST TABLETS—INFORMAL.

Deteriorated due to partial disintegration. Formal repeat sample genuine.

40 B/I BAKING POWDER—INFORMAL.

12.5% deficient of Carbon Dioxide. Formal repeat sample genuine.

50 B/I BEEF CURRY—INFORMAL.

Contains 31.0% of meat whereas canned prepared Curry contains not less than 50.0% of meat. Formal repeat sample genuine.

UN SOUND FOODS

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption: —

BOVINE:

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Head	2	53	—
Head and tongue	5	140	—
Liver and portions	26	314	4
Lungs and portions	7	66	—
Lungs, trachea and oesophagus ...	1	12	—
Mesenteric fat	1	22	—
Spleen	1	2	—
Thin skirt	—	1	—
Udder	1	14	—

PIG:

Head	2	18	—
Heart	4	2	—
Heart, lungs, trachea and oesophagus	1	2	—
Liver and portions	2	9	—
Lungs and portions	6	7	12
Lungs, liver and spleen	—	5	—
Pluck	1	6	—

SHEEP:

Heart	3	1	8
Liver and portions	13	32	4
Lungs and portions	38½	47	8

TINS:

Chopped pork	9	36	—
Corned beef	19	46	15
Corned mutton	6	30	12
Fruit cocktail	1	3	—
Ham	12	111	3
Normeat	1	2	—
Peaches	5	3	13
Pears	19	34	4
Pineapple	9	9	—
Pineapple chunks	2	2	—
Pineapple (Britvic)	18	18	—
Pork luncheon meat	2	6	—
Steak—casserole	17	16	7½
Steak—stewed	134	133	12½
Shoulder	6	45	5
Tomatoes	78	74	7½
Tongue (Ox)	4	24	—

<i>TOTAL</i>	456½	1,352	3½
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MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1962.

Retail Milk Samples

Designated	No. Submitted	CLEANLINESS		PHOSPHATASE		TURBIDITY		Submitted Biological	Found to contain tubercle bacilli
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		
Tuberculin Tested	11	9	2	—	—	—	—	†4	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	106	*103	—	106	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	88	* 84	1	88	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	63	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—
TOTALS	268	196	3	194	—	63	—	4	Nil

† The four samples submitted to the biological test were included in the number submitted to the cleanliness test.

* Tuberculin Tested
Pasteurised

...
...

3
3

Samples void owing to high atmospheric shade temperature.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED 'UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	18
Pasteurised	...	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	...	6
TOTAL	35	All satisfactory.		

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	171	43	2	1,006	103
Number inspected	171	43	2	1,006	103
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER- CULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	19	—	59	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	21.63%	44.18%	—	5.86%	15.53%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.58%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.94%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS:</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticercosis ...	1.1%	2.32%			

NOTE.—Main reasons for condemnation:—

1. Cattle and cows—distomatosis and cirrhosis.
2. Sheep and lambs—parasitic condition of lungs.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Industrial.

Strict control has been maintained on industrial sources of atmospheric pollution.

On five occasions boiler tests have been carried out with National Coal Board technicians with most satisfying results, and I feel I must place on record an appreciation of the co-operation and help received from the National Coal Board Advisory Service, a service which is of great help to all industrial users of coal.

During November, the Council was notified of the intention of a firm of brass extruders to install a fume extraction plant. I look forward to this installation with great expectancy hoping that one of the worst sources of atmospheric pollution in the district will be abated.

It is also pleasing to record that a brick manufacturing company have completely dispensed with the use of three old hand-fired Lancashire boilers, perpetrators of excessive atmospheric pollution, for an electrical installation for all power purposes. It is interesting to note that the cost for this installation was more than the whole of the second stage of the Council's smoke control programme.

Smoke Control Areas.

The first stage of the Local Authority's programme which was commenced in 1960, principally the application of Smoke Control Orders to all new estates of reasonable size is now nearly complete. Sixteen Orders embracing 393 acres and approximately 3,500 properties were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government before December, 1962. Twelve of these Orders being operative before September, 1962.

Any further new estates planned and constructed during the coming years can be treated in a similar manner. This should present no difficulty to the Council now that Building Bye Laws require the installation in new houses of appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels.

The second stage of the Local Authority's programme was concerned mainly with established development and principally included the Pheasey and Park Farm area, consisting of approximately 3,350 properties and covering 322 acres. The Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the relevant Smoke Control Order on 31st October, 1962 to become operative on 1st July, 1963.

For a small Health Department the work involved in this area is quite unique in as much as the supervision, costing, approving, etc., of the necessary adaptations of 3,000 fireplaces must be completed in a period of eight months without any relaxation of the Department's multifarious duties. Plans are also in the making for a large scale exhibition to be held in this area in the late spring 1963.

The third stage of the programme was started before the Minister confirmed the Smoke Control Order relating to the second stage. It involves most of the Streetly area and covers 627 acres containing approximately 1,300 properties. The survey of this area was started and completed in September and October, 1962, with literature to explain every aspect of smoke control being distributed to all householders.

The department carried out an experimental postal survey which, with the ready co-operation of the public, proved to be most successful. Returns totalled more than 60 per cent. and a mine of information was obtained, sufficient in fact to submit to the Minister for confirmation of the Smoke Control Order.

During the year in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government circular No. 4/62 relating to smoke control in the black areas, a report was compiled setting out the Council's smoke control programme for the next 5 years. These plans cover, in addition to the progress already made, the greater part of Aldridge and inclusion of proposed development and redevelopment areas.

Conclusions.

From the request contained in the Minister's Circular No. 4/62 it is evident that he is most concerned about the fairly slow implementation of the smoke control provisions of the Clean Air Act, particularly in the black areas, and in endeavour to speed up this important social necessity a great deal of survey work has been taken from the procedure previously required before a Smoke Control Order can be submitted for confirmation.

Our programme in Aldridge is probably more advanced than in most Urban areas of similar size in the Midlands, but I suggest there is little room for complacency in this matter, and our efforts over the next five years should be maintained at all times towards clean air in this district.

This organised and controlled attack on domestic atmospheric pollution, which, after all, is responsible for 60 per cent. of all atmospheric pollution, in conjunction with the Health Department's strict surveillance and control of the industrial atmospheric pollution, should with the full co-operation and support of all members of the public, help to make clean air a necessary part of our standards of living.

Inspections, Investigations and Visits—Clean Air Act, 1956.

Atmospheric Pollution Investigations and Visits ...	71
Combustion Plant Inspections	26
Smoke Control Inspections and Visits	2,122
Notices of Intention to Install New Furnace Plant	6

FACTORIES ACT

Number of factories on register	114
Number of visits made	44

Sanitary Accommodation in Factories—Dealt with.

Number of written notices served	3
Number of defects	29
Insufficient	1
Number of notices complied with	3

COMPLAINTS

Complaints received at the Health Department and dealt with: —

Drainage, House Defects, Nuisances	164
Defective Dustbins	928
Rats and Mice Infestation	188
	1,280

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR

			Notices Served		Notices Completed		Other Notices Superceded or Rescinded
Informal	...	...	245	...	238	...	5
Statutory	...	...	313	...	283	...	—
			—		—		—
			558		521		5
			—		—		—

VISITS MADE — PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Aged Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Animals and Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Brook Course Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Combustion Plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Control of Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,253
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Housing—Public Health Act—								
Informal Repairs	...	...						156
Statutory Repairs	...	...						59
Housing Act—								
Informal Repairs	...	...						169
Statutory Repairs	...	...						24
Demolition—								
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	699
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Premises and Ice Cream Sampling	...	...						13
Industrial Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Noise Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats and Mice (by Public Health Inspectors)	...	...						76
Refuse Collection—House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sewer Conversion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,122
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Theatre Licences and Cinema Inspections	...	...						6
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Tipping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
								6,011

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES:

Together with Nuisances and Other Matters.

House Defects:

External—

Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	10
Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	18
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	9
Window reveals	...	...	...	...	...	2

Internal—

Ceilings, plaster	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness, rising	...	...	...	...	...	3
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	7
Walls, plaster	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows, defective	...	...	...	...	...	13
Windows, sashcords	...	...	...	...	...	5

Closet Accommodation Defects:

Water closet cistern	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet compartment	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet pedestal	...	...	...	...	...	5

Drainage:

Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	6
Downspouts	...	...	...	...	...	4
Eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sink Waste	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard Surface	...	...	...	...	...	2

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SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with a water closet provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of pails remaining in the district	36
--	----

THEATRES ACT, 1843

CINEMATOGRAPH ACTS, 1903—1952

Number of applications for the performance of stage plays received and granted	5
---	---

Annual Inspection of Cinemas:—

1. Beacon Cinema, Great Barr	1
-------------------------------------	---

2. Avion Cinema, Aldridge	1
----------------------------------	---

The inspection of the above-mentioned schools and cinemas were carried out in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Council Fire Brigade Fire Precautions Officers, whose co-operation is greatly appreciated.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Applications received and granted for a Licence to keep a Pet Shop	2
---	---

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

(a) By Local Authority	144
-------------------------------	-----

(b) By Other Authority	Nil
-------------------------------	-----

(c) By Private Enterprise	741
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NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT THE END OF THE YEAR

(a) By Local Authority	283
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(b) By Other Authority	Nil
-------------------------------	-----

(c) By Private Enterprise	343
----------------------------------	-----

SAMPLING OF WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of drinking water submitted for chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations were taken from the following premise:—

“The Dingle”, Mill Lane, Mill Green, Aldridge—Well water.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK

Premises Inspected

(To confirm infestation or otherwise)

	Totals Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	162	157	5
Business Premises	31	29	2
Council Premises	8	8	—
	201	194	7

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	1,138
Business Premises	...	...	405
Council Premises	...	...	271
			1,814

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 SECTION 75(1)

Number of Section 75 (1) Notices served	271
Number of informal notices served	18
Dustbins supplied by Council, informally on request ...	160
Dustbins supplied by Council on request after service of Statutory Notice	39
Dustbins supplied by Council in default of Statutory Notice	10
Dustbins supplied to Council properties	199
Dustbins supplied by occupiers and/or owners voluntarily after service of Statutory Notice	222
	630

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(This section of the Report relates to the year commencing 31st March, 1962 and terminating 1st April, 1963).

This is the first opportunity I have had to incorporate into my Annual Report this important section of Environmental Hygiene.

The transfer from the Engineer and Surveyor's Department to the Health Department became effective from the 1st April, 1962.

I would like to pay tribute to the Engineer and Surveyor and members of the Cleansing Staff for the efficient manner in which the service operated before transfer. The transfer was basically arranged through the demand for a full trade refuse collection from the ever growing shop and factory development taking place within the Urban District, and to the fact that a partial trade refuse service was operated by the Health Department for food premises only, as an ally to better food hygiene principles.

How far have we progressed with our ideals? Regrettably, not very far in regard to the collection and disposal of trade waste due to the lack of facilities for the separation and baling of saleable materials.

These facilities are to be incorporated into the proposed new depot to be constructed at Brick Yard Row, Aldridge. However, the new tipping site at Wood Lane, Pelsall was opened for use in November, 1961. This site has proved to be ideal for controlled tipping as laid down by the Recommendations of the Ministry of Health, and we are indeed fortunate that adequate top soil covering is available on the site. All the refuse tipped is completely covered at the end of each working day with the effect that insect and rodent infestation has been negligible.

Refuse Collection.

The weekly collection of domestic refuse has, fortunately, been maintained throughout most of the year, in spite of the extremely bitter winter, and I feel that great credit is due to the men engaged in this dirty and arduous task for their loyalty and enthusiasm.

In an endeavour to keep abreast with the development of the district and having regard to the situation of the tip, two new Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic vehicles were introduced into the service for use at the more extreme parts of the district i.e. Pheasey and Streetly. These vehicles have proved invaluable, (statistics and running costs—see appendix).

Bonus Scheme.

The present bonus scheme in operation is as follows:—

- (1) The normal working week = 42 hours, made up in the following manner:—

Monday to Thursday inclusive ... 8½ hr. day.

Friday 8 hr. day.

- (2) A fixed target of 10 premises per hour, per man, per day, equals 420 premises per man per week, thus this number of premises per man per week must be cleared before any employee qualifies for bonus. In addition a full weekly attendance is necessary.

Bonus Rate payable in excess of 420 premises is:—

Summer ... 1½d. per premise.

Winter ... 2¼d. per premise.

- (3) To encourage an employee to attend regularly a **Merit Bonus** was instituted as an additional incentive. This bonus equals 20/-d. per week for full attendance of 42 hours. N.B.—In the case of sickness, whether certified by a Doctor or not, the £1 is forfeited, but if the sickness is certified by a Doctor any bonus earned by the employee prior to his sickness as an **Incentive Bonus** is payable.

Discussions have already taken place between the men and myself, followed later by discussions with the Clerk of the Council and Union Representatives, to review the bonus scheme at present in operation. The main bone of contention, by the men, would appear to be that the volume of refuse collected is fairly equal between the summer and winter collections. I feel that the men may have a point for some re-adjustment of the bonus scheme as this Authority has introduced seventeen Smoke Control Areas which, allied to the fact that refuse has become bulkier due to the ever increasing pre-packaging of food and other commodities, tends to bear out the men's complaint.

Trade Waste Collection.

Although lacking the proper facilities for the sorting and baling of all saleable materials, we have instituted a weekly collection of trade refuse from shops at a cost of 1/6d. per bin. In order to facilitate the collection service, bulk refuse containers have been introduced wherever practicable.

Refuse Disposal.

As mentioned previously, all refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Wood Lane, Pelsall Tip, the necessary top soil covering being excavated by the use of a Bristol Crawler Tractor.

APPENDIX

Staff.

Cleansing Inspector	...	...	...	...	1
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Male Employees.

Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	33
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	1

Vehicles.

Registration No.	Vehicle	Year
TRE 505	S & D Freighter (side loader)	1950
151 ARF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1953
705 FRE	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1955
794 VRF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1958
6201 RF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1960
379 CBF	S & D Pakamatic	1962
245 KBF	S & D Pakamatic	1963
SBF 798	Bristol PD 48 Europa Tractor	1961

COST STATEMENT TO THE 31st MARCH, 1963 COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE

Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Total
REVENUE ACCOUNT.			
Gross Expenditure—			
	£	£	£
Labour	18,280	279	18,559
Transport	11,362	1,631	12,993
Plant, equipment, land and buildings	—	—	—
Other items	1,169	312	1,481
Total	30,811	2,222	33,033
Gross Income	641	—	641
Net cost	30,170	2,222	32,392
UNIT COST—			
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross cost per ton—labour only ...	20 6	4	20 10
Gross cost per ton—transport only ...	12 9	1 10	14 7
Net cost per ton	33 10	2 6	36 4
	£	£	£
Net cost per 1,000 population ...	554	41	595
Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,696	125	1,821

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area	9,284 acres
Population at 30th June, 1962 ...	54,480
Total refuse collected—estimated ...	17,846 tons
Weight per 1,000 population per day	17.9 cwts.
Number of premises	17,793
Average haul	5.5 miles
Frequency of collection	Weekly
Total refuse disposed of	17,846 tons
Method of disposal—controlled tipping	100%
Rateable value	£563,059
Product of 1d. rate	£2,365
Rate in £ (Collection and disposal) ...	1s. 2d.

COMPARISONS OF FORE AND AFT AND PAKAMATIC REFUSE VEHICLES

Month	No. of Miles		No. of Loads		No. of Premises	
	F & A	Pak.	F & A	Pak.	F & A	Pak.
July ...	531	806	41	39	8,089	18,270
August ...	755	823	58	39	11,441	17,726
September ...	663	744	51	37	10,041	15,572
October ...	769	849	63	41	11,914	19,677
November ...	720	811	62	40	10,645	19,356
December ...	726	752	61	37	9,850	15,465
TOTALS ...	4,164	4,785	336	233	61,980	106,066

	F & A	Pak.
Bins collected per mile travelled ...	14.8	22.1
Bins collected per mile load	222	455
Bins collected per mile manshift ...	148	152
Bins collected per mile per week ...	2,505	4,335
Total premises now 16,887—		
vehicles required	7.2	4.3
Total premises next year 18,087—		
vehicles required	7.9	4.5

COSTS.

Vehicle running costs per mile ...	4s. 3d.	5s. 6d.
Vehicle running costs per 100 premises	£1 8s. 10d.	£1 4s. 10d.

May I take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and support in the many projects and problems that I have had the honour to present. I would also like to say thank you to the Clerk of the Council, Engineer and Surveyor, Treasurer, Housing Manager and the Parks Superintendent, and members of their respective staffs for all the help and co-operation I have received from them.

I would particularly like to thank Dr. V. E. Milne, Medical Officer of Health for the valuable assistance and co-operation received and for discussions on the many complex problems that have had to be dealt with during the year.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to the staff for their patient, courteous and helpful outlook and co-operation in the conduct of their duties.

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. PERKINS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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